

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7275

BILL NUMBER: SB 256

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Absentee Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Breaux

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill permits a voter who is qualified to vote in person to vote by absentee ballot. The bill removes all other qualifications for a voter to vote by absentee ballot except for a voter with disabilities who is unable to make a voting mark on the ballot or sign the absentee ballot secrecy envelope. (Such a disabled voter is currently required to vote before an absentee voter board.)

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary-* County election boards, particularly counties with direct recording electronic voting systems, would require additional paper ballots for voters choosing to vote absentee. Therefore, this provision would increase election board ballot expenditures. Additional local expenditures would depend on the number of additional ballots ordered by counties in future elections.

Background Information: Ballot cost- The cost of optical scan ballots depends on the contract in place between a county and their ballot vendor. As an example, Marion County, which is the largest county using optical scan with approximately 600,000 ballots produced, had a ballot cost of \$0.32 per ballot for the 2006 general election.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards.

Information Sources: Marion County Election Board, 327-5100.

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